



10th District Newsletter

Councilmember Harry Clarke

June , 2014

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Calendar

June 17th

3:00pm First reading of the
budget; Council Work
Session

June 19th

6:00pm Second reading of the
budget; Council Meeting

Council Comment

For the past few weeks, I have felt a tremendous responsibility as a member of the Council as we looked with great care at each part of the Mayor's Proposed Budget. Under no circumstances can you "rubber stamp" the figures proposed. On the other hand, you have to look at the circumstances of each Department, Division, and Partner Agency and make decisions based on the good of that entity and its eventual impact on Lexington. You cannot just rely on your own "bent" toward each area, and it is important to *listen* to others who may have different views, even though you may disagree with them. The bottom line...get to the heart of the budget issues, do what is right for Lexington...that is the challenge of the moment.

I am so proud of our efforts in getting an expanded and exciting summer season for *Moon Dance Amphitheater*. If you haven't had the experience of sitting on the Moon Dance lawn, listening to a great Friday night band or the Tuesday jazz series, give it a try. Thanks to owner/developer Tim Haymaker, who has worked with the city in making our involvement possible, to Commissioner Geoff Reed, who enthusiastically supported our efforts, and in particular to Parks & Recreation employee Amber Luallen and Celeste Lewis who have put the series together. Check the schedule in the back of the Newsletter.

We are constantly working to expand our newsletter. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to let us include them on our email list. Send Jamie, my legislative aide, a name and email address at jgiles2@lexingtonky.gov to be included. I also encourage you to check out my Council Facebook page at www.facebook.com/clarkecouncil10th for almost daily comments.

I hope you have wonderful plans for a productive and fun-filled summer.

Contact Us

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Budget Links

To best understand how Lexington's annual budget is put together and approved, a brief graphic time-line and explanation of each step is explained below.

LFUCG Budget Process

Fiscal Year 2015



In January, each department submitted next fiscal year's (2015) budget request to the Mayor's staff and the Finance Department.

Using those documents as a foundation on which to base the new fiscal year's budget, the staff conducted budget hearings with each of the Departments and Divisions. During those hearings, each department and division head defended their projected budget.

After two weeks of all-day hearings, the Mayor's staff and the Finance department made recommendation to the Mayor. The resulting document is the [Mayors Proposed Document \(MPB\)](#), a 600-page compilation of budget figures.

After the Mayor's announcement of the MPB on April 8th, the Council became involved. The budget is divided into five "Budget Links" with three council members assigned to each section of the budget. Each department, division and Partner Agency (Salvation Army, Commerce Lexington, Mission Lexington, etc.) met with their appropriate Budget Link to defend or recommend additional items to their budget as proposed.

Budget Links (Cont.)

Once the budget links met, each link made recommendations to approve the budget items as proposed, or to add or eliminate items in the MPB. These recommendations were made to the whole Council on May 27th and finalized on June 9th.

A list of the Budget Link recommendations can be found [on the next page](#). These results are reported to the Mayor who can make last minute adjustments of his own.

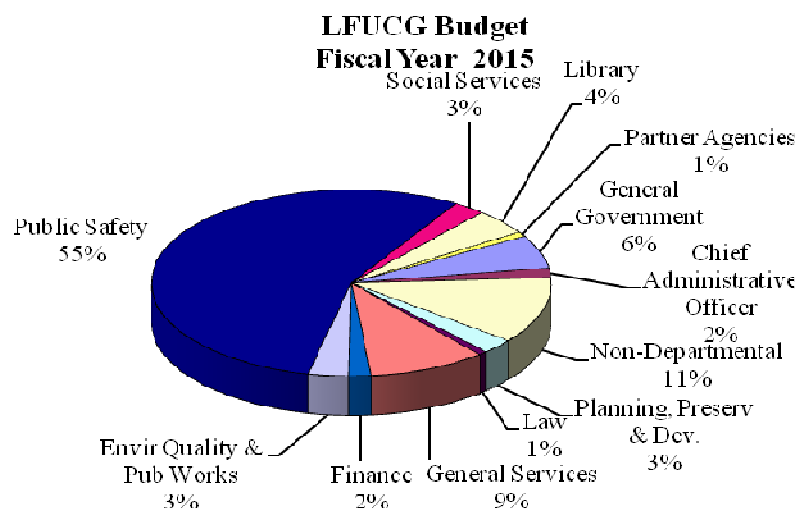
This final document will come back to the Council for approval in 1st and 2nd readings in regular and consecutive Council meetings on Tuesday June 17th, and Thursday, June 19th. On July 1, the new 2015 budget becomes functional.

Councilmember Clarke's Budget Link

Councilmember Clarke chaired the General Services and Planning Budget Link with the other members of the Budget Link, Vice Mayor Gorton and Councilmember Mossotti. The Link interviewed 18 divisions/agencies in order to make budgetary recommendations as well as non-financial recommendations to improve services.

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Because of an improved financial outlook, the Commissioner of Finance along with recommendations from economist at the University of Kentucky, are predicting a 5% increase in revenues for the next fiscal year.



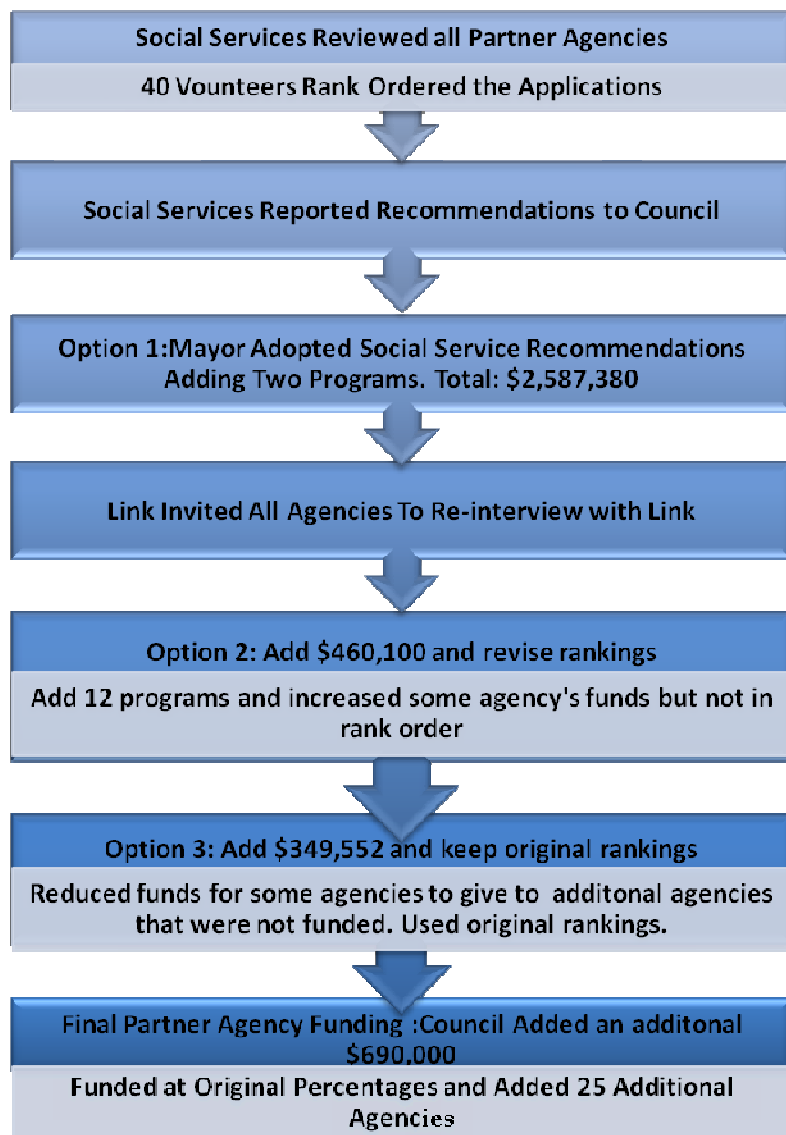
FY15 Budget Council Recommendations

After a seven hour council budget meeting, the council allocated an additional \$800,000 to the Mayor's Proposed Budget of \$310 Million. The majority of the funds went towards funding additional partner agencies programs (more information on this decision and process is on the next page). The list below clarifies how the funds were allocated. In late Fall, Council will receive the final Fund Balance amount (the amount remaining from the previous years budget). At that time the Council may decide to fund some of the projects that were not funded through the Budget Link process.

Item	Cost	Concept	Funded	Consideration
Re-establish Hazardous Street Tree Cost Sharing program	\$ 85,000	Yes	Yes (Partial)	Funded at \$50,000 dollars in addition to the \$40,000 in the Mayors Proposed Budget
YMCA Funding *	\$ 300,000	Yes	Yes (Partial)	Funded \$47,000 now (the amount remaining); and consider the remaining funding for this item for discussion for Fund Balance
Weather Radios and Education for EMS	\$ 8,350	Yes	Yes	Passed to help low income communities prepare for poor weather
Additional Neighborhood Paving from Municipal Aid Program Fund (Gas Tax funds from the State for roads)	\$ 2,000,000	Yes	Yes	Used from this year's remaining for Roads; Allocated to neighborhood roads in addition to \$3M in Mayors Proposed Budget
Additional funding for Partner Agencies	\$ 690,460	Yes	Yes	The Council kept the fund percentages proposed in the Mayors Proposed Budget and added agencies at 50%
Bond additional \$1M for PDR (total of 2M) with anticipated Federal match	\$ 1,000,000	Yes	Yes	Debt service budgeted for half a year at \$33,610
Legal and appraisal fees for extra PDR noted above	\$ 33,000	Yes	Yes	Services need for the additional million dollars noted above
Fund one of three proposed small area plans	\$ 100,000	Yes	No	Council felt this would be a good item for the Fund Balance Discussion, as it can wait until October
Hire 7 corrections officers in July rather than January	\$ 174,500	No	No	Administration did not feel they would be able to hire 15 officers in the fall. They will hire 8 in August and 7 in January.
Independent Study for a Strategic Fire Station Location Analysis*	\$ 100,000	Yes	No	Suggested moving the discussion for Fund Balance Discussion
Design Plans for Splash Parks*	\$ 20,000	Yes	No	Suggested moving the discussion for Fund Balance Discussion
Connectivity at the pools*	\$ 85,000	Yes	No	By the time council came to this item, there was only \$47,000 funds left. Suggested move the discussion for this item to the top of the list for Fund Balance Discussion
Add Part Time Landscape examiner to Building Inspection	\$ 25,000	No	No	Council was unclear about the position's role
Creation of Director of LexCall	\$ 15,890	Removed	NA	Compensation Consultant did not Recommend
Add building inspection supervisor for oversight of mechanical field operation.	\$ 47,830	Removed	NA	Removed. After consideration and discussion with the CAC and Budget Link, Councilmember Clarke removed this recommendation

Partner Agency Funding

The most discussed item concerning the 2015-16 Budget centered around the funding process for social service partner agencies (Salvation Army, God's Pantry, etc). Until 2011, the same 12-14 partner agencies were funded each year without much oversight. Since then the Social Service Department has refined the process. Partner agencies apply through a grant process, are evaluated and interviewed by a volunteer panel, and given a score. Based on the average score, throwing out the highest and the lowest, the agencies are listed in rank order. Based on the rankings the agency is given a certain percentage of their total ask. Based on this process, the Mayors Proposed Budget included funding for 33 programs out of the 76 applications. After multiple meetings and discussion, the Council decided to keep the original funding levels of the 33 programs and add 25 additional programs that were unfunded in the Mayor's Proposed Budget at 50% of the total ask in the grant application. The graphic below depicts the different funding options.



Youth Council Takeover During the Youth in Government Day



Meghana Kudrimoti, a constituent in the 10th District and a member of the Mayor's Youth Council, approached Councilmember Clarke in January to inquire about opportunities for meaningful dialogue among youth and community leaders. Over several months, Councilmember Clarke along with Jodie Koch from Partners for Youth worked with the students to develop a Youth in Government Day where the student wrote ordinances and resolutions they felt would improve Lexington. The students elected a Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Representatives and took their seats behind the horseshoe on May 30th.

"I think the Youth in Government Day is important because it allows the adults in our community to know that youth does have an opinion, that our opinion matters and that we can make a difference," said Susie Smith, an 11th grader from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, who will represent the 2nd District as youth councilmember.

"What a great opportunity for our youth to experience the process of local government," said Councilmember Harry Clarke, who has worked with the Mayor's Youth Council to organize the event. "By serving as a member of the Council, as the Mayor, Vice Mayor and the Council Clerk, these young people will have a much better understanding of how the Council works and how our ordinances are adopted. These are the future leaders of Lexington."

"A lot of youth these days don't actually know what goes on in government, what the government even does, how they run, or how they function." said Jodi Kirkner, a 9th grader from Henry Clay High School.

Parkers Mill Update

Councilmember Clarke is working to get a reconstruction of Parkers Mill Road from Man 'O War to the Cardinal Run ballpark. If you have travelled this section of Parkers Mill you know how extremely dangerous it is. However, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet does not have plans to fix this road until 2036-2040.

Considering the many trips made to and from the ballpark, and the number of parents and children involved, Councilmember Clarke knows that this road needs immediate attention.

A petition has been signed by some 350 persons recognizing the dangers and asking for this reconstruction. A highly respected engineering company has done a study for Councilmember Clarke that estimates the cost of construction at less than \$4 million, as compared to the \$24 million estimated by Kentucky Transportation Department, to widen the road, create safe shoulders, level it out somewhat, tear down the concrete wall, add a sidewalk, and for an additional \$400,00 add bike lanes on both sides.

Councilmember Clarke is in contact with Representative Stan Lee and Senator Alice Forgy. It is imperative that our legislators are on board if there is any hope of getting this to happen any time soon. The legislature has to approve the funds.

I-75 Connector

As a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Fayette County and Jessamine County committee that deals with all transportation planning, Councilmember Clarke has been involved in discussions regarding the construction of an I-75 connector road between I-75 at White Hall and the still to be constructed East Bypass in Nicholasville.

At a price tag around \$600 million, there is both strong support and strong opposition to this road. The support comes from a number of businesses and economic development concerns, reflecting the value of a connection between the busy north-south interstate and Nicholasville/Jessamine County. The opposition comes from neighbors who live in or near the proposed path of the construction, from those who feel that \$600 million is better used elsewhere and those who are concerned about increased traffic on an already burdened Nicholasville Road to Lexington. Even though the MPO voted to approve the long-term construction planning which includes the I-75 Connector, nothing is inevitable until studies are done and the project is approved.

City to Manage Downtown Arts Center



The Budget Link which Councilmember Clark chairs has recommended the City take a key role in managing the Downtown Arts Center (DAC). Since 2002, the city has contracted out management of the facility for roughly \$100,000 each year.

"I see it as a really exciting place for downtown. It doesn't have to be an evening concert. It can be a noon concert, for instance. We're currently not doing any of that. That place could be busy on a daily basis," explained Councilmember Clarke in an interview with WEKU.

Lexarts, the areas primary arts fundraising agents and former management agency of the DAC, has agreed it is time to let the city develop a plan for the operations.

[Read More](#)

Southland Bike Lanes

The bids for Southland repaving and addition to bike lanes on Southland Drive opened June 12th. The bid should be presented to Council at the final meeting before the summer break on July 8th so that construction can be complete by the Fall.



Rosemill and Harrods View Neighborhood Re-energized

Councilmember Clarke's experience as a neighborhood president has made it clear that an association of residents who care about the neighborhood in which they live can have a measurable impact on the quality-of-life in an area, and also provide a conduit to share important information.

Councilmember Clarke wants to do everything he can to promote the vitality and well-being of every neighborhood in the 10th Council District. One of his goals is to be sure that each neighborhood has citizen representatives who can channel concerns to the Council, and communicate with the residents. Councilmember Clarke is working with residents of the Rosemill Neighborhood and Harrods View Neighborhood to reinvigorate the association. A list of streets within the boundaries are listed below.

Rosemill Neighborhood Association

Streets: Hollyhill, Fairfield, Barkley, Southgate, Sheridan, Longview, Mitchell, Rosemill

Harrods View Neighborhood Association

Streets: Lyon, Burrus, Westmont Circle, Westmont Court, Sallee, McNair,

*Some streets are partially in the neighborhood association. For boundaries email jgiles2@lexingtonky.gov

Neighborhood Development Funds (NDF)

During the 2014 Fiscal year, the Council approved funds for the 10th District projects listed below. The NDF can be requested simply by a relatively comprehensive email describing your need, the association you represent, and explicitly how the funds would be used. There is no specific form to use. If you have a request, contact Jamie Giles at jgiles2@lexingtonky.gov

Organization
Kentucky Chinese American Association, Inc.
Harrods Hills Neighborhood Association, Inc.
The Pasadena Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Paul Laurence Dunbar Band Parents' Assoc., Inc.
Paul Laurence Dunbar Soccer Boosters Club, Inc.
Palomar Hills Community Assoc.
Rosa Parks Elementary PTA
The Palomar Townhome Assoc., Inc.
The Pasadena Neighborhood Assoc., Inc.

Welcome Lexington Sign

In preparation for the Equestrian World Games, the city financed Wayfinder Signs beginning in the inner loop of New Circle. However, no signage exist at the edge of the county lines welcoming travelers to Lexington. Councilmember Clarke believes it is important to highlight the rural landscape that is so special to this community with "Welcome to Lexington" signs that mimic the stone fence and natural shrubbery found in the natural scenery. Councilmember Clarke has taken the lead on Welcome Signs projects through the Corridors Commission.

A pilot project has been funded on Harrodsburg Road near the Dogwood Trace neighborhood. Councilmember Clarke is working with the Dogwood Trace Neighborhood Association leadership to ensure them that proper Maintenance will be provided for the pilot project.



Art in Motion Bus Stop

Councilmember Clarke's office was approached by the President of First Southern National Bank about the concern with the large group of people standing in front of the bank on cold days to wait for the Lextran. Councilmember's Clarke identified the need for a bus shelter as a potential opportunity to highlight the first double diamond engineering project in the state and one of only six in the nation as of 2012.

By working with the non-profit Art in Motion and Lextran, the location has been identified as the next location for an art bus shelter. Request for designs will hopefully be advertised in the fall.

Once more information about the design phase of the project has been finalized, Councilmember Clarke will post information in the newsletter, on Facebook, and on Twitter.



Moon Dance Amphitheater 2014 Summer Schedule

June 20 Kelly Richey Band
June 27 Cora Lee & the Townies
July 2,3,5,6,9,10,11,12,13 Twelfth Night
July 23,24,25,26,27,30,31 Little Shop of Horrors
Aug 1,2,3 Little Shop of Horrors
August 8 Kentucky Wild Horse
August 15 The Stella Vees
August 22 Zach Brock & Friends
August 29 Ben Lacy

About the 10th District Newsletter

The 10th District Newsletter is distributed periodically by email to members of the 10th District Email List. The newsletter helps residents of the 10th District, and other parts of town, stay informed about Council issues, learn about what is going on in their neighborhood, and much more.

If you have a news story, suggestion, or any other information you would like featured in the newsletter, please contact Harry Clarke at hclarke@lexingtonky.gov. If you would like to be added to the 10th District Email List, please email jgiles2@lexingtonky.gov.



Dunbar Dancin' Dogs

Councilmember Clarke recognized Dunbar Dancin' Dogs at the May 8th Council meeting for their recent accomplishment as Grand Champions at the US Spirit Nationals. If you know of any accomplishments to be recognized at council meetings please email the 10th District Legislative Aide at jgiles2@lexingtonky.gov.

GET CONNECTED!

Home Visits or Coffee Chats

Would you be interested in having Councilmember Clarke in your home or at a local coffee shop for a discussion session about your city government? e-mail jgiles2@lexingtonky.gov

Councilmember Clarke is now on Twitter and Facebook. Follow the 10th and share photos, stories and issues.



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Like the [@Councilmember Harry Clarke](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmemberHarryClarke)